

had an ARSON fire.

Plan ahead

- Develop plans that indicate the primary and secondary routes for evacuation, locations of portable fire extinguishers and manual fire alarm pull stations, and the locations of assembly areas outside the building. If the building has elevators, instructions should state clearly that they are not to be used.

Maintain escape routes

- Monitor and maintain escape routes: keep them clear of obstructions; do not block, bar or lock doors when the building is occupied; flammable materials should not be stored near or within any part of the building used as an escape route.



If it becomes necessary to evacuate

Every school is required to have an evacuation plan in place

in the event of an

emergency such as fire.

Involve the fire department in the plan development—they are able to contribute fire-specific life and property-saving plan details.

While each school district and school will have its own evacuation guidelines to follow, there are certain basic considerations common to all well-laid evacuation plans.

Account for all students

- Develop guidelines for safe, quick and efficient evacuation.
- Develop a protocol to account for all students. Alert the fire department if someone is unaccounted for and report where they were last seen.

Consider needs of students with disabilities

- Develop special provisions for the evacuation of persons with disabilities.

Communicate with families

- Develop a protocol for communicating with families.

This information provided by the Special Districts Association of Oregon in partnership with the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal.

This
SCHOOL

The NFPA* reports that about half of the structure fires in educational properties are intentionally set.

Comparable data for fires in Oregon schools shows that the percentage of intentionally-set fires is even higher in Oregon than the national average.

*National Fire Protection

Reduce Risk

- Illuminate exterior and entrances.
- Paint buildings a light color.
- Install burglar and fire alarm systems.
- Trim or remove shrubbery and signs that obstruct the view of the building.
- Keep garbage and recycling bins away from buildings.
- Restrict access to the roof and upper floors.
- Keep school grounds clear of fuel sources such as landscape trimmings, newspapers, leftover paint, old rags and other trash.
- Make sure that storage and other infrequently visited areas/buildings are secure.
- Disciplinary handbooks should identify consequences for bringing fire tools to school.
- Install video cameras on school premises, especially in locations where arson is an ongoing immediate concern.
- During summer vacation, consider using police, private security or volunteer patrols to discourage arson and vandalism. Such activity will discourage the impression that the school will be an easy target.
- Maintain grounds and buildings so that community pride is high and vandalism is discouraged.

Report...every fire

- Oregon fire code requires that all fires be reported and investigated.
- ORS 476.210
ORS 476.030
OAR 837-040-0010
OFC 401.3

Report...every time

- Every time a fire occurs or evidence of firesetting activity is discovered, staff should preserve the fire scene. Call the fire department immediately.



Report Fires

The fire service is an active partner with school personnel in maintaining the safety of students and staff and protecting school property.

Report...any size

- Every fire starts small.
- Every thirty seconds, a fire doubles in size and within minutes can threaten an entire school.
- The size of the fire does not reflect the motive of the person who started the fire.

Report...anywhere

- Report fires set in:
- restrooms and locker rooms
 - playground structures
 - playing fields and landscaping
 - decoration on walls and bulletin boards
 - concealed spaces (including storage areas) within the structure
 - trash cans and dumpsters
 - student lockers and personal property
 - parking lots and vehicles.

Youth-set arson fires

- Approximately twenty percent of school fires are confirmed to be started by youths under the age of eighteen. A significantly higher percentage are determined to be human-caused and suspicious.
- Prompt reporting assists in identifying youths using fire in an inappropriate and unsafe way.
- Unless there is intervention, youths involved with fire once are five times more likely to use fire inappropriately again.
- Alternatives to expulsion exist such as in-school suspension coupled with accountability programs in the community.
- Prevention programs that teach youths about the legal, financial and emotional costs of school fires are available from the Office of State Fire Marshal. *The Community Impact Report* is intended for use with an individual. *Prevent Arson Loss in Schools (PALS)* incorporates aspects of violence prevention and is designed for in-class delivery. *It's Up to You* is a comprehensive fire awareness middle school curriculum.